



BOROUGH OF BEWDLEY.

# Annual Report

OF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR

1898.

BEWDLEY:—

Printed and Published by G. GILL MARK.



TO THE  
TOWN COUNCIL OF BEWDLEY.

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January 10th, 1899.

GENTLEMEN,

**Death Rate.**

During the year 1898 there were 42 deaths registered in the Borough, the death-rate being 14.60 per 1000 per annum. This is lower than last year, and in fact is the lowest since 1889. Of these deaths, as will be seen from Table A, there were 11 of children under 1 year, and I may point out that 9 of these were aged one month and under, while of the 13 deaths over 65 years, 10 were 70 and over.

**Infantile Mortality.**

The Infantile Mortality is the same as last year, 125, and this is caused much in the same way, as noted above, by the large number of very young children who died.

**Birth Rate.**

The number of Births registered during the year was 72, the birth rate being 25.03 per 1000 per annum.

**Notification of Infectious Diseases Act.**

There were 6 cases of Scarlatina notified (2 being under 5, and 4 over 5 years), one case of Diphtheria (under 5), and one case of Enteric Fever (over 5).

The Scarlatina cases were of a Sporadic character, and as proper means were taken to prevent its spreading, this disease did not assume an epidemic form.

The cases of Diphtheria and Enteric Fever were similarly attended to, and no further cases followed, but while there was no death from Scarlatina or Diphtheria, the case of Enteric Fever proved fatal,

**Drainage.**

During the year many of the drains have again been relaid, repaired and trapped, and this is being regularly done, as attention is called to them.

Three sewers have been converted into pipe sewers viz. :—one running behind High Street into Lax Lane ; one behind High Street into Load Street, and its connections in High Street ; and one at the lower end of Load Street.

Ventilating Shafts were placed in connection with the two latter ones.

The large brick sewer in Winbrook was repaired, but is still in an unsatisfactory condition.

A tip has been provided by the Council at the “ Osier Beds ” for the disposal of house refuse.

**Housing of the  
Working  
Classes Act.**

Under the “ Housing of the Working Classes Act ” many improvements have again taken place, 30 houses having been attended to, in order to make them fit for habitation. One house was closed, and one case of overcrowding was dealt with.

Two new houses were erected, and one house was rebuilt on the old foundations.

**Col Slack.**

Colonel Slack, R.E., held an enquiry at the Town Hall, on June 10th, 1898, on behalf of the Local Government Board, in connection with the questions of Water, and Sewage Disposal, which enquiry I attended in my official capacity. You have since then had his Report, and the remarks of the Local Government Board thereon before you.

**Water.**

In my last Annual Report, I was reluctantly compelled to advise the Council to abandon all hope of obtaining a Water Supply from the Dog Lane Well for reasons which I then stated. I then also suggested that steps should be taken at once to obtain an efficient supply from some other source.

Early in the year, Mr. Berrington, C.E., of Wolverhampton, made a visit of inspection to the Hill Farm, where it was thought probable that a sufficiency of water would be found.

He reported that he was of opinion that water could be found there, but advised the Council, before taking any definite step, to take the opinion of a geological expert on the matter. Acting on this advice, the Council secured the services of Professor Lapworth, who made a survey of the district, and reported to the Council thereon.

His Report was that there were three places where water would in all probability be found, and, after discussing the advantages and disadvantages of these, he suggested :—(1.) That a trial well and bore-hole should be sunk at the site of Winterdyne Meadow." (2.) That if this trial bore-hole prove unsuccessful, then the site " B " or " A " should be chosen." . . . . ."

Mr. Giles Shaw, the owner of the Winterdyne Meadow, was then approached by the Council, for permission to bore, but this was refused. The Council then applied to the Rev. S. B. Stallard-Penoyre, the owner of the site marked " B " (the Blackstone site), and after some little delay, permission to bore was granted.

Estimates of the cost of boring having been obtained the Council accepted the tender of Messrs. Thomas and Wilks, and I hope that very shortly now, boring operations will be commenced.

<b>Systematic Inspection.</b>	Regularly carried out by Mr. Humpherson, and myself.
<b>House Accommodation.</b>	See above.
<b>Overcrowding</b>	One case dealt with.
<b>Drainage and Water Supply.</b>	See above.
<b>Excrement Disposal and Scavenging.</b>	The double system which the Council adopted during the year does not appear to work satisfactorily, and I would again suggest the advisability of arranging for this work to be done by their own men, and under their own supervision.
<b>Burial Ground</b>	Satisfactory.
<b>Canal Boats.</b>	Regularly inspected.



Bakehouses and Slaughter houses.	In a satisfactory condition, and regularly inspected.
Common Lodging houses.	None.
Dairies, Cow- sheds and Milkshops.	The Act of 1885 was adopted by the Council during the year.
Offensive trades.	None.
Sale of Food and Drugs and Food unfit for Human Consumption.	No case.
Bye-laws.	Duly observed.
River Pollu- tion.	In the same condition as last year.
Industries	Agriculture, Horn Manufacture, Brassfoundry, Basket-making, Carpet making and Wool Spinning (Kidderminster), Rope making and Tanning.
Vans & Tents.	None except at Fair time, when they are inspected.
Fruit and Pea-pickers	Generally composed of residents.
Factories and Workshops.	Regularly inspected.
Special Reports.	None.
Conclusion.	In concluding this report, I think it proper to point out that although the death-rate of the Borough has been gradually decreasing, and Zymotic disease is not rife, there is a large amount of sickness, which, while not being notifiable, and not proving fatal, is the cause of much suffering, poverty, and derangement of business, and which is undoubtedly due to a large extent, to the cold and damp condition of many of the older houses of the town.

During the last summer, the want of water made itself more evident, if possible than ever, and this was more particularly so, inasmuch as the condition of some of the wells and their surroundings necessitated their closing ; and this want was only supplied by the Council partially, and at considerable expense.

During the year also, some of the drains and sewers were proved defective, and it became necessary to relay them, as stated above, at a great cost to the Borough.

I am convinced that until a proper water supply, and a satisfactory method of sewage collection and disposal have been undertaken, the Council cannot expect new houses to be built, nor can they themselves equitably carry out the provisions of those parts of the Housing of the Working Classes Acts which they have adopted, and which, with the town in a more Sanitary condition could be worked with considerable benefit to the town and inhabitants.

There is a prospect now of a satisfactory Water supply being found, and it must be a matter of serious consideration for the Council whether instead of expending large sums of money annually in merely repairing the drains and sewers, it would not be better to adopt a scheme of sewage disposal such as recommended by Mr. Berrington in 1896.

I enclose Tables A. B. & C. containing tables of statistics as usual.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

TREVOR WEBSTER,

*Medical Officer of Health.*



# TABLE A.

TABLE OF DEATHS during the year 1898, in the Borough of Bewdley Urban District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shewn as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.							MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE					
	At all Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and up- wards	Typhus Fever.	Phthisis	Bronchitis and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease	All other Diseases.	Total.
Bewdley	42	11	5	0	1	12	13		Under 5		6	10	16
									5 upwards		4	16	26
Totals	42	11	5	0	1	12	13		Under 5		6	10	16
									5 upwards		4	16	26



# TABLE B.

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1898, in the Borough of Bewdley Urban District; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shewn as separate localities.	Population at all Ages		Registered Births.		New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.			Number of such Cases Removed from their Homes in the several Localities for Treatment in Isolation Hospital.
	Last Census.	Estimated to middle of 1898.			Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Enteric or Typhoid Fever.	
Bewdley Borough	2876	2876	72	Under 5	2	1		
				..... 5 upwards	..... 4	..... 1	..... 1	
Totals ...	2876	2876	72	Under 5	2	1		
				..... 5 upwards	..... 4	..... 1	..... 1	

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District? Yes. Since when? February, 1891. Besides the above-mentioned Diseases, insert in the columns with blank headings the names of any other diseases that are notifiable in the District, and fill the columns accordingly. State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District. Mark (H) the Locality in which such Hospital is situated; or if not within the District, state where it is situated; none.

# TABLE C.

## URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF THE BOROUGH OF BEWDLEY.

Area in Acres, 2070. Population 1881, 3088. Population 1891, 2876. Decrease, 1881-91, 212.  
 Estimated Population 1898, 2876.

REGISTERED BIRTHS.			REGISTERED DEATHS.			MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.					
Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
35	37	72	23	19	42	11	5	...	1	12	13

## MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES.

Enteric or Typhoid Fever.	Cancer.	Phthisis.	Pneumonia.	Bronchitis and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	(Other Diseases.
1	3	2	6	4	3	23

Birth Rate, 25.03. Death Rate, 14.6. Zymotic Death Rate, 0.34. Inf. Mortal., 125. Phthisis Death Rate, 0.69. Resp. Death Rate, 3.47. Smallpox Death Rate, Nil. Measels Death Rate, Nil. Scarlatina Death Rate, Nil. Diphtheria Death Rate, Nil. Whooping Cough Death Rate, Nil. Fever Death Rate, 0.34 Diarrhoea Death Rate, Nil. Cancer Death Rate, 1.04.

TABLE C (Continued.)

	Small Pox.	Measles.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Fever.	Erysipelas.	Puerperal Fever.
Cases	...	...	6	1		1		
Deaths	...	...				1		

Diseases prevalent, Influenza. Period, early part of the year.  
Schools closed, None.

